

# PAPERCUT<sup>Z</sup>

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RECESSION-PROOF ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

# TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.



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THE CRYPT-KEEPER

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TERROR



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# TALES FROM THE CRYPT



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THE VAULT-KEEPER

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# THE CRYPT OF TERROR





AND IN THAT  
FINAL MOMENT,  
I REMEMBER.

REMEMBER HOW  
IT BEGAN...



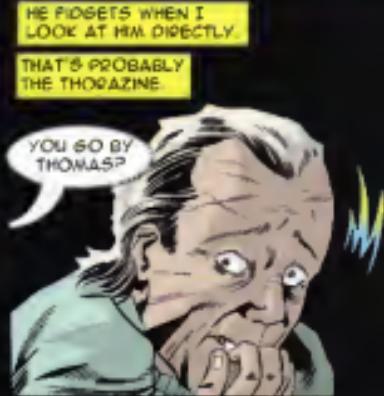
THAT LOOK OF  
URGENT FEAR ONLY  
HALF-CONCEALED  
BY THE PATIENT'S  
AWARENESS OF  
THE GAP THAT  
SEPARATES US

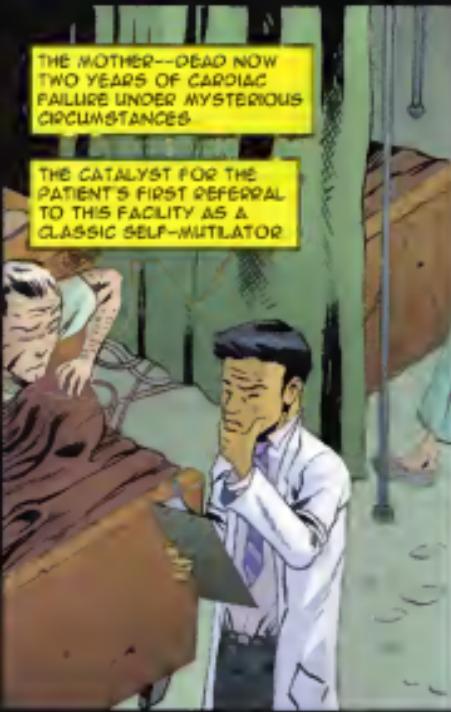


HE RUNS  
HIS TONGUE  
NERVOUSLY  
ACROSS HIS  
DRY LIPS  
THREE TIMES...

...BEFORE FINALLY  
UTTERING THE  
WORDS THAT  
CHANGE MY LIFE  
FOREVER.

DOC-P







HOW COMFORTING IT MUST BE TO EXPLAIN AWAY ALL OF LIFE'S ILLS BY THE EXISTENCE OF A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER.

CAN'T HOLD A JOB? BRAIN-EATING MONSTER. GLOBAL WARMING? TRY A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER INSTEAD.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, THOMAS.

I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THERE ARE NO BRAIN-EATING MONSTERS LOOSE IN THIS FACILITY.

IF YOU SAY SO.

LIE BACK AND TRY TO RELAX.

THEN I'LL LET THE NURSES KNOW THAT YOU ARE DUE FOR YOUR MEDS.

THANKS.

I PUT THE EVENT IN MY MENTAL COLUMN OF VICTORIES.

ANOTHER PATIENT BROUGHT BACK FROM THE EDGE OF PSYCHOSIS BY MY WORDS OF COMFORT AND SOLACE.

AT LEAST I THINK HE IS UNTIL...









IT BECOMES APPARENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THAT THE KEY TO FIGHTING THIS DELUSION IS TO SUBJECT IT TO THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS.

THERE WILL BE NO MORE OF THIS UNSCIENTIFIC BRAIN-EATER CLAPTRAP.

THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE NEW FACE OF ENCEPHALOPHASIA!



YOU ARE, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE OF THE CURIOUS STRING OF BRAIN EXTRACTIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED ON OUR WATCH OF LATE.

I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THE OLD ONE LOOKED LIKE...

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS AN OLD FACE OF ENCEPHALOPHASIA?

WELL, NOW THAT HE BRINGS IT UP...

I GUESS SIX IN A WEEK DOES CONSTITUTE SOME KIND OF PATTERN.











OH, I DON'T DISPUTE THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND BUT IMAGINE IF YOU WERE EXPERIENCING A COMPLETE PSY-CHOTIC BREAK WHERE YOU ARE ABLE TO ACT OUT YOUR MOST UNTHINKABLE IMPULSES WITH NO FEAR OF RECALL. AFTERWARDS.





FOR ONE MOMENT, I  
CONSIDER FOLLOWING  
HIS ADVICE. MAYBE I  
SHOULD LIE DOWN

HAVEN'T I BEEN  
UNDER A LOT  
OF STRESS  
LATELY? I CAN'T  
REMEMBER.

THEN I  
REALIZE...

THAT'S JUST  
WHAT IT WANTS  
ME TO DO. THINK  
RATIONALLY.

LAY DOWN  
CLOSE MY  
EYES AND  
WAIT



AND SO, INSTEAD, I DO SOMETHING  
ELSE. SOMETHING CRAZY.

THOMAS?  
IT'S ME. DOCTOR  
ANDERS. WAKE  
UP!

HUH?





IF EVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE WILDERNESS WITH A FRIEND...

AND YOU JUST SO HAPPEN TO FIND YOURSELVES CONFRONTED BY A GRIZZLY BEAR...

WHERE'RE WE GOIN'?

JUST TRY TO FOCUS ON STAYING AWAKE. I'M TAKING YOU OUT OF THIS FACILITY ON MY AUTHORITY.

I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

JUST A FEW MORE YARDS, THOMAS.



JUST REMEMBER...

THE  
EMERGENCY  
LOCKS HAVE  
ENGAGED!

WHICH  
KEY?



THE FOOTTRACE  
ISN'T BETWEEN YOU AND THE  
BEAR...

UH,  
DOC?









MEET THE EX-HUSBAND OF  
MRS. EMERSON.  
BALE. HER VISIT  
TO HER FORMER  
HUSBAND'S  
HOUSE IS NOT  
A SOCIAL ONE.

COME  
ON, OPEN THE  
DOOR, YOU--

BING  
BONG

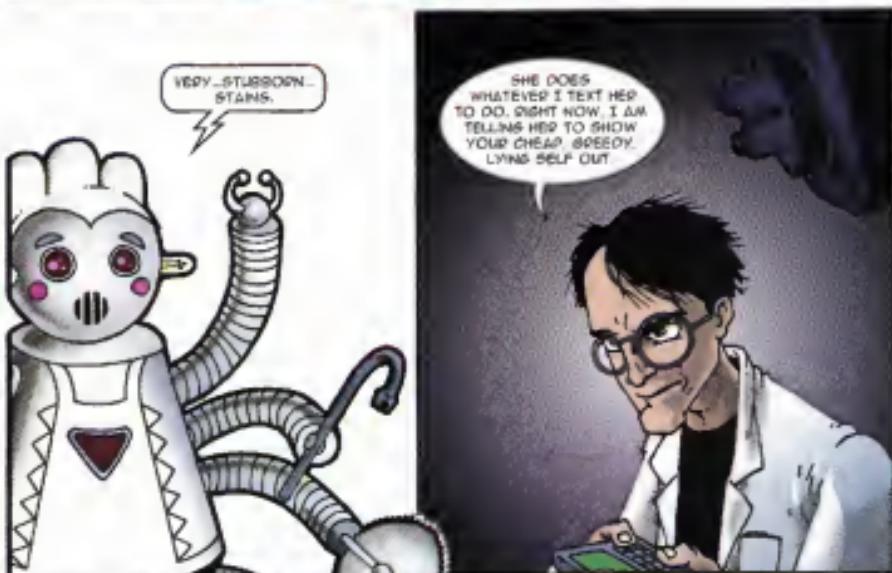
CREAK

WELL, IT'S  
ABOUT TIME,  
EMERSON!

DR. BALE IS NOT  
RECEIVING VISITORS.  
PLEASE COME BACK  
TOMORROW. THANK  
YOU.

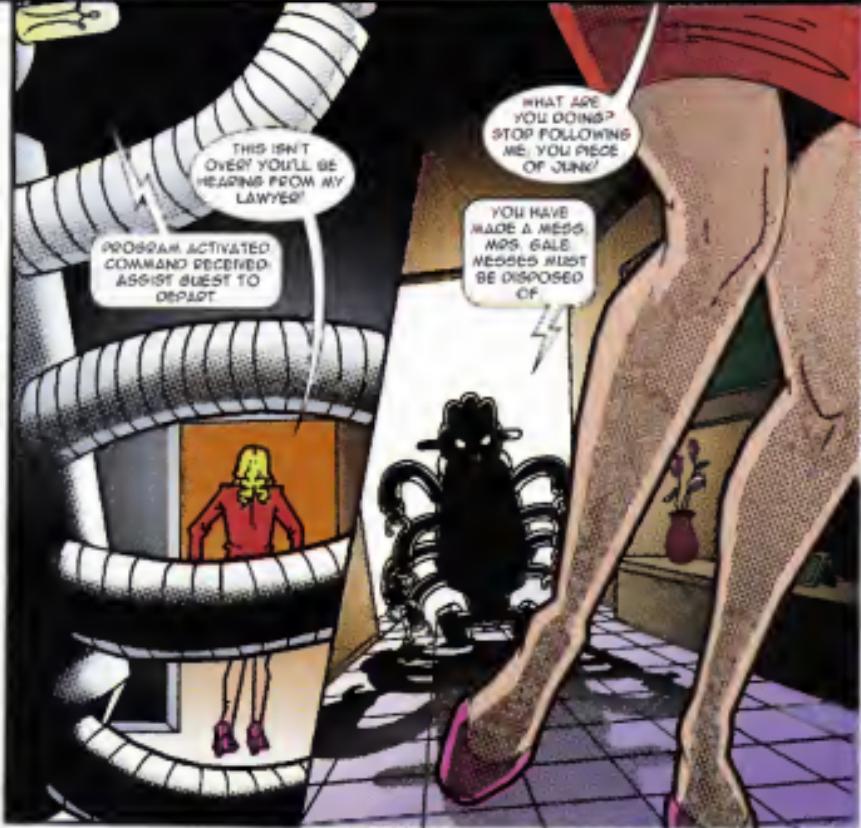






**CRASH!**

YOU HAVE MADE A  
MESS. ACTIVATING  
CLEANING AND  
DISPOSAL PROGRAM.





DR. GALE IS NOT RECEIVING VISITORS.  
PLEASE--

WHERE IS SHE?  
WHAT'S HE DONE  
WITH SARAH? SHE  
NEVER CAME HOME  
AND HER CAR IS  
STILL OUTSIDE

GALE! IT'S  
JAKE! I'M COMING  
FOR YOU, OLD  
MAN!

PLEASE WIPE YOUR  
FEET. PLEASE WIPE  
YOUR...

FEET.

YOU HAVE  
MADE A MESS.



MESS SPEEDS DISORDER.  
DISORDER SPEEDS INEFFICIENCY.  
INEFFICIENCY IS THE ENEMY OF  
RATIONAL THOUGHT.

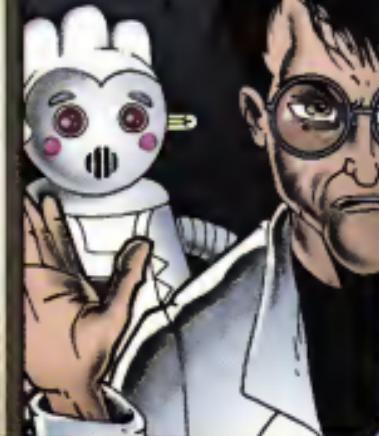


IT'S LATE I'M  
GOING TO HAVE A  
SNACK AND GO  
TO BED.

THE KITCHEN  
REQUIRES CLEANING  
BEFORE FOOD CAN  
BE PREPARED.

WHY? WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
THE KITCHEN?

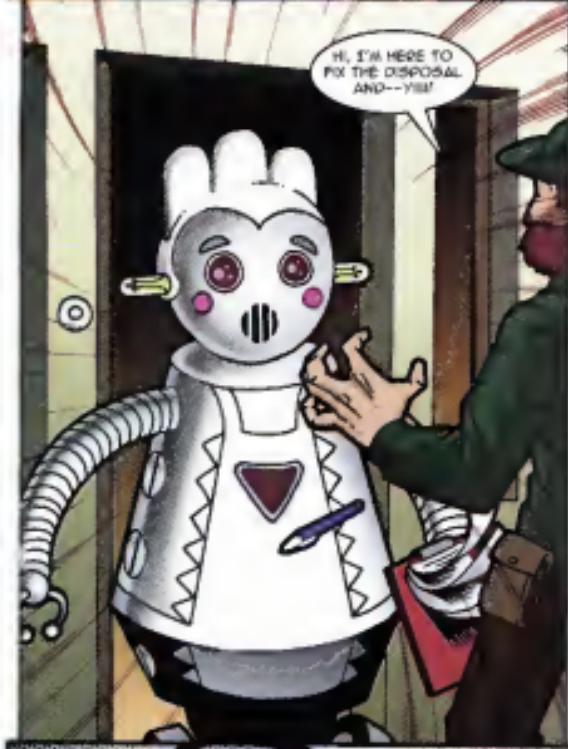
THE GARBAGE  
DISPOSAL IS  
JAMMED, AGAIN.



HMMMM.

Compendio:  
Garbage disposal  
needs cleaning  
in the morning





THAT'S A LIL' GREAT COSTUME--  
GOING TO A PARTY? I WENT AS  
A FISH ONCE--HAD A HOOK  
HANGING OUT OF MY MOUTH  
AND EVERYTHING. HEH.

THE DISPOSAL IS  
NOT OPERATING.

RIGHT. LET  
ME JUST TAKE A  
LOOK HERE. WHOA!  
THAT DOESN'T  
SOUND GOOD.

KRUNNCHH

SOMETHING'S  
REALLY JAMMED THIS  
BABY UP. UNNNH... IT'S  
REALLY IN THERE...  
WAIT, GOT IT...

YEAHHHH!





MESS  
MUST BE  
ELIMINATED

NO! HELP!

GET AWAY!

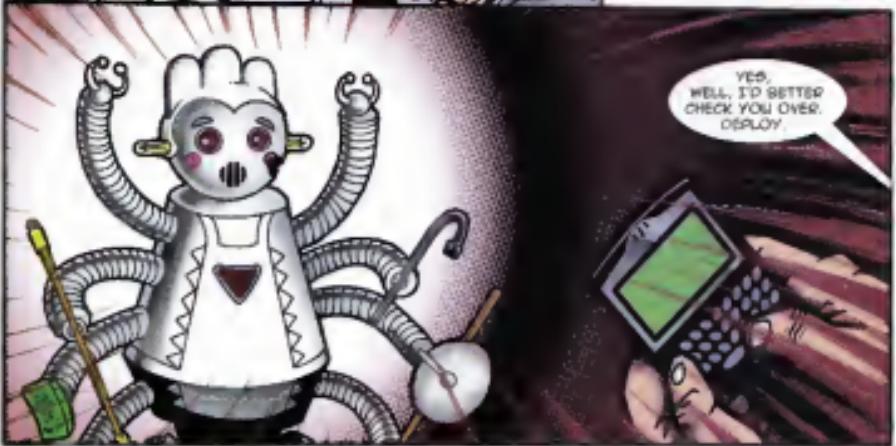
WHIRR!

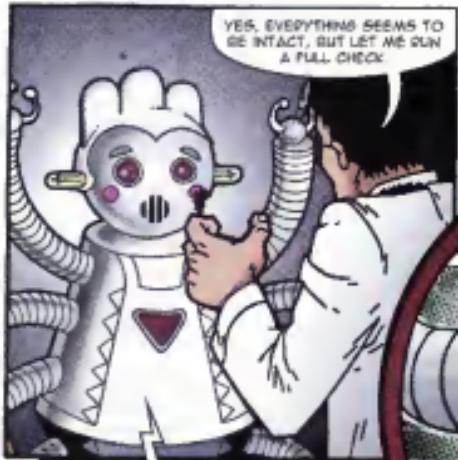
KLANNING

NO...NO,  
PLEASE...

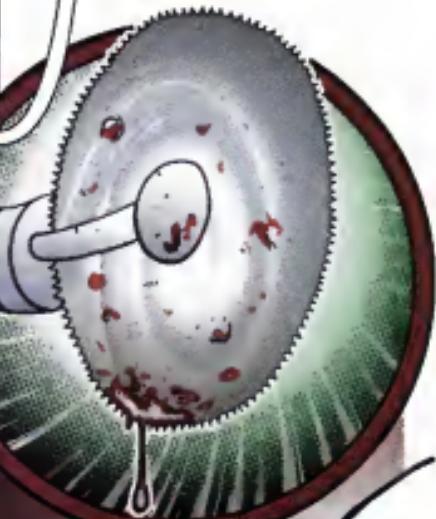
PLEASE HOLD STILL  
SO MESS CAN BE KEPT  
TO A MINIMUM. THANK  
YOU.

WHIRR



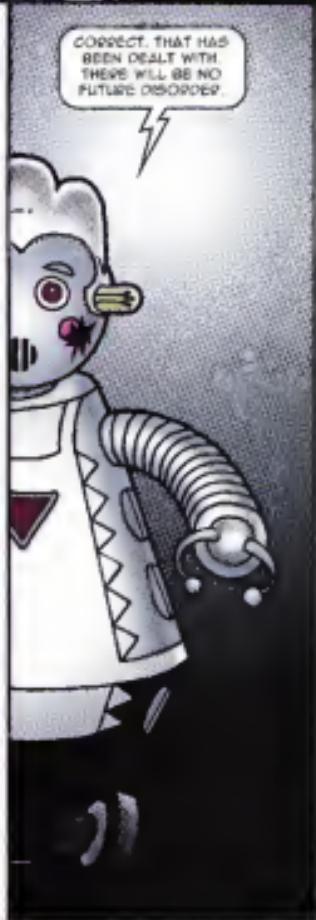
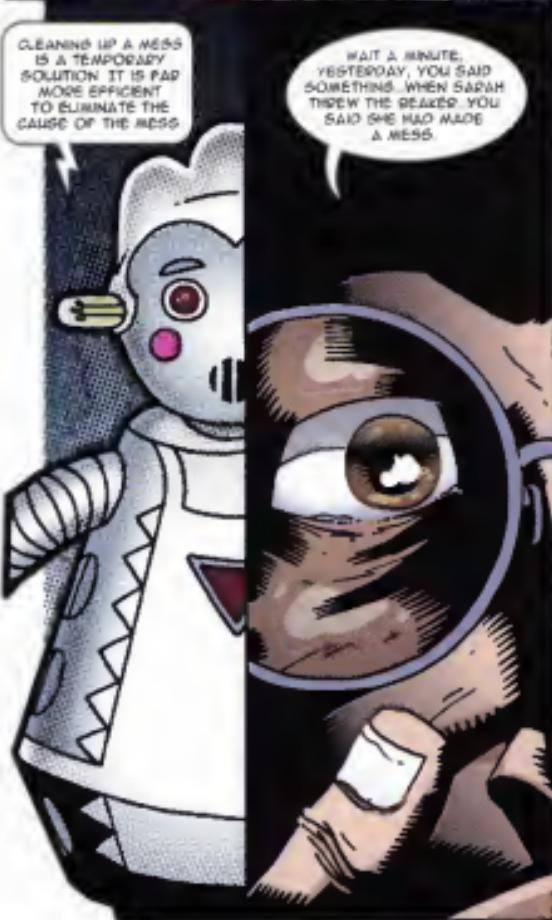
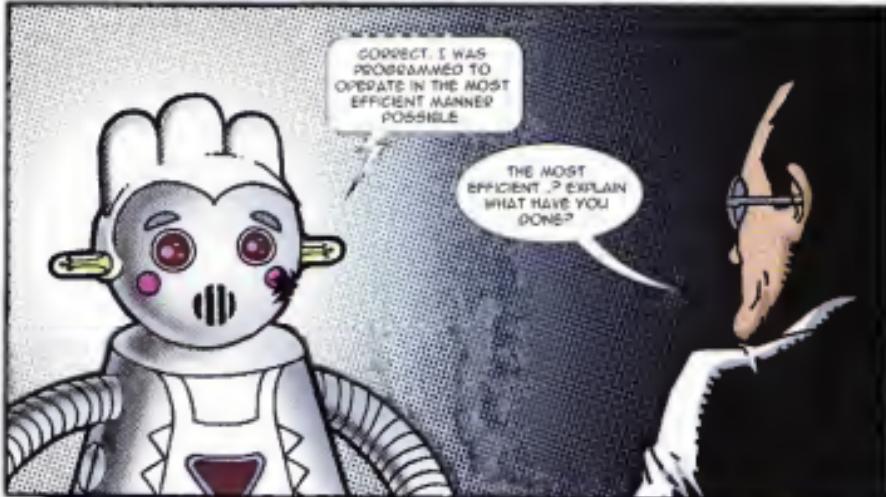


YES, YES, FINE, I... WHAT IS THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE... BLOOD.



I AM IN WORKING ORDER. MESSES WILL BE ELIMINATED. DISRUPTION FROM NEIGHBORS WILL BE ENDED.







OH, MY GOD...  
I ASKED YOU TO THROW  
HER OUT, BUT SHE NEVER  
LEFT DID SHE? SARAH?  
SARAH?

PLEASE DO NOT RUN  
RUNNING CAN RESULT  
IN BREAKAGE



THE KITCHEN  
REQUIRES CLEANING  
BEFORE FOOD CAN  
BE MADE

SARAH?  
WHERE IS SHE,  
YOU MECHANICAL  
MONSTER?

UNNNHHHHH



AAAAAHHHHH





YEAH, GREAT IDEA! DON'T LISTEN TO THAT VAPID VAULT-KEEPER—

VAPID?

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF MY BLACK HEART, I'D BE TICKLED PINK TO TIDY-UP YOUR CRYPTIC-CRIB!

>GASP!< >CHOKE!< SHE'S ALMOST AS SCARY AS WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FRIGHTENING ISSUE OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT!

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**PAPERCUT** 

# THE CRYPT-KEEPER TALES FROM THE CRYPT #8



Who knew *THE OLD WITCH* was so jealous of *TALES FROM THE CRYPT*'s successful return to *NIGHTMARISH NEWSSTANDS* and *CREEPY COMICBOOK STORES*? But what kind of CRYPT-KEEPER would I be if I couldn't deal with ENVIOUS EC-CENTRICS? As if *REAL-LIFE* wasn't SCARY enough, it seems all you BOILS and GHOULS still enjoy my unique style of SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES! Even tired of *TIME MAGAZINE* featured the cover *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #8 in a recent issue! Though they missed the REAL STORY - that *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* is back, baby!

But with all that MEDIA FRENZY behind us, we've managed to count up all the votes for your favorite FEAR-Y TALE from *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #8. The winner is "She Who Would Rule the World," Christian Zanier's ULTIMATE ADAPTATION of Stanley G. Weinbaum's classic sci-fi short story "The Adaptive Ultimate." The race was as tight as the Vault-Keeper's grip on INSANITY, with Joe R. Lansdale and John L. Lansdale's "Virtual Hoodoo," illustrated by James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook coming in a close second.

As for last issue's contest, it seems that some of you LAME-BRAINED LUDDITES may have had trouble finding our new online poll - there weren't nearly as many votes as we expected! What's wrong, kiddies? Don't you realize that VOTING is not only a right, but your PATRIOTIC DUTY? How else will we determine exactly what kind of TERROR-TALES to present on our not-so-pulpish pages? Be that as it may, John L. Lansdale, James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook's "Chicken Man," the scariest story featuring hens and roosters this side of TROMA'S *POULTRYGEIST*, won top honors over Fred Van Lente and Ryan Dunkley's

"Glass Head." Poor Ryan will just have to settle for having his AWFUL ARTWORK being on display at New York City's MUSEUM OF COMIC AND CARTOON ART ([www.mocanyc.org](http://www.mocanyc.org)), while his PARTNER-IN-SLIME consoles himself scripting MARVEL ZOMBIES 3, from that company that once was known as ATLAS!

Now, I can understand the Vault-Keeper not being able to find our poll - he can hardly find his way back to his VAULT OF HORROR - but the rest of you fan-addicts!! Just go to [www.papercutz.com](http://www.papercutz.com), find the TALES FROM THE CRYPT section - don't be scared off by that terrifying GHOUL DETECTIVE, NANCY DROOL, or those BRAINLESS BIONICKLESANDDIMES - and click on this issue's cover to vote for your favorite story from this issue! See, it's EC!

Don't forget, if you ever miss an issue (Gamer forbid!) of *TALES FROM THE CRYPT*, you can still find the stories collected in paperback and hardcover collections wherever books are sold! There's even a boxed set ON SALE NOW collecting paperback volumes #1 ("Ghouls Gone Wild"), #2 ("Can You Fear Me Now?"), #3 ("Zombielicious!"), and #4 ("Crypt-Keeping It Real")! So, you see, thanks to our GREEDY PUBLISHERS, you're never without access to all our CRYPT-Y BADNESS!

And speaking of BADNESS, time to hear what our FIENDISH FANS have to say...

Dear The Crypt-Keeper, The Old Witch and The Vault-Keeper:

I must say that these two stories in *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #8 really gave me some shivers this

evening, "She Who Would Rule the World" is a story of two duoces that thought they were going to win the Nobel Peace Prize for achieving a magnificent healing process on a human subject. Apep Nephthys who was lying on her death bed, inflicted with AIDS, becomes a gorgeous woman that is invincible. Her genetic makeup continues and she thinks she has the ultimate power of doing anything and everything she wishes. She had no conscience and commits a random act of murder, just because she can. She becomes Homo Superior. I can only wonder how she would have continued to evolve, if it was not for the good doctors ending it all in a grand finale. Great story, it had me going. Whew!

Then "Virtual Hoodoo" was somewhat grisly to say the least, especially when that poor guy was bludgeoned to death with a bowl and spoon. Yep, it turned out to be a nice neighborhood without Sidney, a neighborhood filled with monsters! Since I am a ghosthunter, I enjoy these kind of comicbooks. I recently was told by Cartoon Network that I am on a short list as a technical consultant for a pilot called 'Afterschool Paranormal' that is produced by two producers from Sci Fi Channel's Destination Truth. I am also flying to the Mayan pyramids for Showtime - Penn & Teller Show, to investigate the Mayan prophecy of 2012. As you can see everyone loves horror, everyone loves the paranormal. That is why I will be taking a few of my TALES FROM THE CRYPT comics to Mexico with me. Love ya guys!

Paul Dale Roberts  
General Manager/Paranormal Investigator

A ghosthunter, eh? You may want to check out the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art! No, not for Dundavey's exhibit, scary as that may be! They've also got an exhibit devoted to Harvey Comics, home to >gasp< >chuckle< CASPER, THE FRIENDLY GHOST! Sic 'em, PDR!

#### Subject: TALES FROM THE CRYPT

This stuff is great. I remember reading reprints of the originals back in the '80's, so as a 35 year-old reader that came across this new series, I absolutely love it. I just love the tales and I can't get enough. I finish each book thirsting for more. I just read #1 and #2 and have read about your plans for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, which I think is great. Keep up the good work!

A fan,  
Steven Ortiz

Thanks, Steven! As for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, you won't find too many of those lurking in the CRYPT OF TERROR, but we're making a couple of exceptions for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #3 -- "FRANKENSTEIN" and CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED

#4 -- "THE RAVEN AND OTHER POEMS." Marion Monroe's all-new adaptation of Mary Shelley's original novel is a MODERN MONSTERPIECE! Already HORROR FANS are comparing Mysterious Monroe's dark drawing style to Hellboy's Mike Mignola, and the storytelling to that of the Spirit's Will Eisner. I'm no expert on comicbook art, but as a CRYPT-KEEPER I know GHOULISHLY GRUESOME when I see it! And if I ever had to be caught UNDEAD with a book of poetry, it better be by Edgar Allan Poe! Of course, the MACABRE illustrations by GHASTLY GAHAN WILSON add just the right SENSE OF DREAD! Who says the Crypt-Keeper isn't well-read, or well, DEAD?

#### Subject: YOUR NEW MAG

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

Just wanted to drop a line to tell you what a wonderful idea you had reviving TALES FROM THE CRYPT. I especially love the Crypt-Keeper, Vault-Keeper and the Old Witch. They are some old friends that I missed dearly and I sure am glad they're back from the dead. I love the new mag (although some of the artwork is simply ghastly), and I just wanted to say how happy I am that you don't have any advertising breaking up the stories. I hate that so much I could kill someone. Keep up the gory work!

Gruesomely yours,  
Raelyna Alvarez

And it's great to be back from the DEAD -- again! Fear not, Raelyna, your BLOODLUST won't be triggered by any disruptively ABYSMAL ADVERTISING in TALES FROM THE CRYPT! That's 'cause we sneak all our APPALLING ADS in this letter column! And speaking of which...

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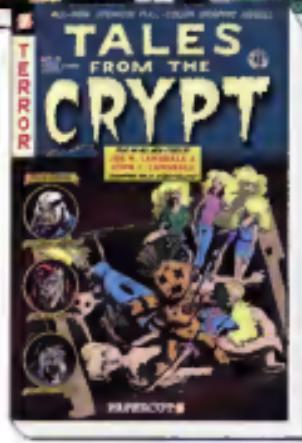
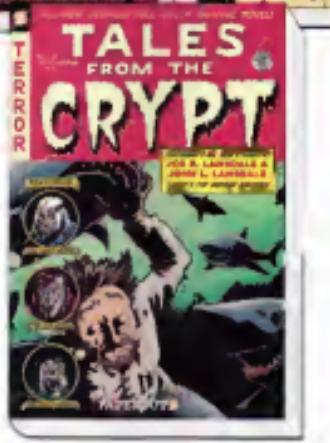
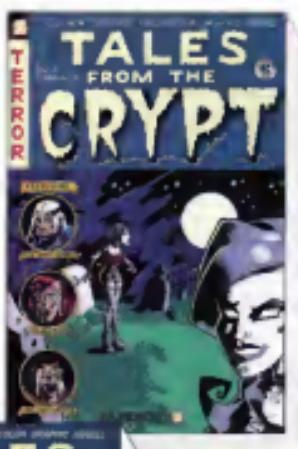
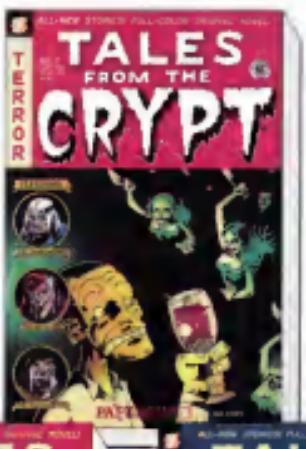
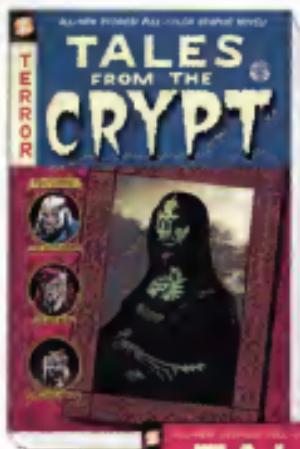
So, until our next issue, keep those emails and letters coming -- we've gotta fill these pages somehow! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner  
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308  
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:  
salicrup@papercutz.com

# E.C. FANS!

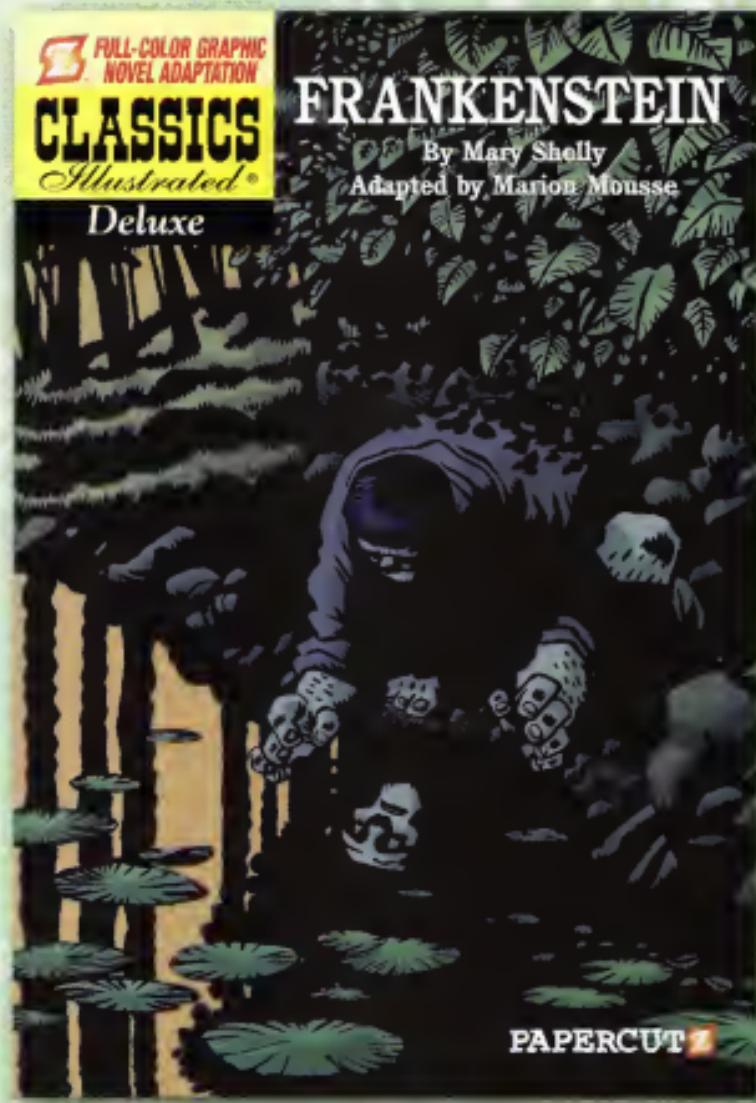
YOU'VE WRITTEN!  
YOU'VE E-MAILED!  
YOU'VE PHONED!  
YOU'VE THREATENED US!  
**YOU'VE DEMANDED!**  
(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH  
THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)



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